

Document: CRIM 1/149/3

Article from 'The Suffragette', 2nd January 1914

Source 5a

ONE YEAR'S MILITANCY ENDS.

ENORMOUS DAMAGE DURING 1913

Mansion Gutted at Bath.

SERIOUS FIRE AT CHELTENHAM.

Valuable Yacht Destroyed.

£40,000 DAMAGE.

Many Haystacks in Flames.

It is impossible to estimate the enormous amount of damage which has been attributed to Suffragettes during the year 1913. Several newspapers have calculated that the result of some of the more serious attacks on property alone amounts to £510,150. Large though this total is, it by no means represents the full cost of the women's campaign against property, for it does not include hundreds of the devastating fires which have marked the past year, nor the many minor attacks that have been made on property.

Several serious fires have been recorded during the last ten days, notably the burning of a large house at Bath and the destruction of Lord Inverclyde's valuable yacht, the Beryl, which was valued at £40,000.

**SERIOUS FIRE ON
LANSDOWN.**

House Gutted.

A BEACON TO ALL BATH.

During the early hours of Saturday morning, December 20, Westwood, Fonthill Road, an unoccupied house on the heights of Lansdown, was completely gutted by fire, and as a copy of the current number of the SUFFRAGETTE, together with other Suffrage literature, was found in the grounds, it is believed that the outbreak was the work of Suffragettes. Further, one of the front windows which still remained had all the appearance of having been forced.

Beyond the main walls very little was left standing. The roof had completely disappeared, and practically all the interior except just a portion of the kitchen and some of the adjoining windows. The house is situated in its own grounds slightly off the road and hidden by some tall trees and a high hedge of evergreen, and a more secluded spot could hardly be imagined. Once ablaze, however, it acted as a beacon light to practically all Bath, and reports came from Odd Down, Weston, Widcombe, Wellsway, and the centre of the city of the fire having been observed at different times.

Source 5b

**HOUSE FIRED AT
CHELTENHAM.**

STAIRCASE DESTROYED.

TWO WOMEN ARRESTED.

A serious outbreak of fire was discovered at Alstone Lawn Manor, an unoccupied house at Cheltenham, in the early hours of Sunday morning, December 21. The fire brigade was promptly summoned, and succeeded in saving the house from complete destruction, though damage to the extent of about £400 or £500 was done.

Suffragette literature was found near the building, and later in the day two women were arrested, and were charged before the local bench on the following day.

Source 5c

Precautions.

Apparently Suffragettes were at once suspected, for the second division of the brigade was ordered back to the fire station, because of the possibility of another outbreak elsewhere.

It is a well-known fact that officers in command of fire brigades throughout the country have received advice always to leave sections on duty at their fire station, it being believed that when Suffragettes intend to make an attack on property they will probably create a small fire elsewhere as a ruse whereby to distract the attention of the fire fighters.

The first division of the brigade worked hard, and though the flames had taken a big hold on the staircase, the conflagration was kept within these limits, and after about half an hour's hard work it was well under subjection.

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Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3 (continued)

Beyond the main walls very little was left standing. The roof had completely disappeared, and practically all of the interior except just a portion of the kitchen and some of the adjoining windows. The house is situated in its own grounds slightly off the road and hidden by some tall trees and a high hedge of evergreen, and a more secluded spot could hardly be imagined. Once ablaze, however, it acted as a beacon light to practically all Bath, and reports came from Odd Down, Weston, Widcome, Wellsway, and the centre of the city of the fire having been observed at different times.

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